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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : GER - Mr. Geoffrey W. Lewis

FROM : O/S - J. B. Koepfli *JK*

SUBJECT: German science

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB
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In accordance with your request I am attaching a statement which has been prepared in our office concerning our policy toward German science during the past few years. I hope it will be useful in the preparation of material for the briefing of the Secretary.

Attachment:

Statement on German science

*Confer converted to
negotiable form*

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BACKGROUND

American policy vis-à-vis German science has progressed through a number of stages from the exploitation of a defeated foe in 1945 to one of cordial encouragement in 1952.

Even before the German capitulation in 1945, teams of American technical experts went into Germany behind our combat troops to secure all available scientific and technological data. After the surrender the military forces appointed a Scientific Adviser to General Clay to aid in dealing with problems concerned with German science and technology.

In order to assure the complete demilitarization of Germany, a series of control laws was imposed, severely restricting scientific research and development. Thus, no work was allowed in the fields of atomic energy, chemical warfare or bacteriological warfare. Other fields were to be explored only under strict supervision, and all German research institutions were subject to arbitrary inspection to insure compliance with the provisions of the control laws.

With the imposition of controls, American scientists of recognized reputation were no longer attracted to the post of Scientific Adviser to OMGUS, and the operation became a straight police action, under quadripartite auspices until the withdrawal of the U.S.S.R., when a tripartite agreement was instigated. The U. S. Element of the Military Security Board carried out the control functions in the U. S. Zone.

In addition

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In addition to the control of German research and technology, a series of military and intelligence extractive operations added to the depression of German science. Thus, in the period immediately following the surrender, "Operation Paperclip" under military auspices came into being. German scientists in certain military fields of research were brought to the United States to work at military and defense contractor establishments. This resulted in the withdrawal of a considerable number of competent German scientists and engineers from the German economy, and was in line with the policy of preventing the resurgence of German industry and military potential.

By 1949 it became evident that if the German Federal Republic was to become a useful partner to the western allies she must be rehabilitated both industrially and scientifically. The compulsory aspects of "Paperclip" were removed, and a modified operation known as "Project 63" emerged. Through administrative blunders, however, the approach to German scientists was so badly handled that the German reaction was most unfavorable to the United States. German scientists at the universities as well as industrial laboratories were "circularized" with form letters to accept contracts to do research in the United States. Candidates were to agree to a minimum of six months in the United States, were to proceed to New York, and would then be told what their duties would be and to what establishments they would be assigned. Obviously,

reactions

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- 3 -

reactions ranged from indignation to a conviction that the United States feared an immediate Soviet invasion of Western Germany and was using this method to withdraw German scientists from the danger zone. Even today "Project 63" continues in a modified form on a sporadic basis, and very recently it has prompted a series of unofficial protests from top German scientific organizations.

Thus up to 1949, the policy with respect to German science and technology was primarily a negative one. Starting in 1949, in line with the new policy of encouragement to German industry, a more positive program toward German science set in, although even prior to 1949, the U. S. Element of the Military Security Board had been able to offer limited help in nonrestricted fields, through the supplying of food and clothing, the purchase of books, periodicals and laboratory equipment, and the subsidizing of certain German scientists whose services could not be absorbed by the German economy. This latter phase was in fact a form of denial program, and at one time several hundred German scientists and engineers were on the payroll.

The Mutual Security Agency has provided the major portion of the financial assistance to west German science and technology since the beginning of fiscal 1949. The principal programs have included:

1. Counterpart

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- 4 -

1. Counterpart programs to assist the recovery and development of scientific research in Germany amounting to DM 31 million (\$7.4 million). Nearly all schools, universities and institutes in the Federal area and Western Berlin that are engaged in research work are participating in this program, mostly on a grant-in-aid basis. A few commercial and industrial firms are participating on a loan basis.

The objective of this program is to assist in reviving an interest in scientific and industrial research among professional groups and students. The program covers a wide range of both theoretical and industrial research and development projects. The funds made available have enabled the teaching staffs and the students to obtain satisfactory buildings, laboratories and modern scientific equipment.

2. In addition to the counterpart assistance, research in Germany has been assisted by technical assistance projects which made \$80,000 worth of technical and scientific literature available to German researchers.

3. Scientific research has also been aided by direct U. S. financial assistance for the procurement of scientific equipment needed to revive laboratory research during the early stages of the recovery program. Procurement authorizations for such equipment totalled about \$200,000 since 1946.

The Air

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The Air Force has very recently established a European office for the placement of unclassified research and development contracts with western European scientists and laboratories, including those in Western Germany. Other elements of the military establishment have shown an interest in similar programs.

A German exchange-of-persons program has been in operation, but since it has been directed primarily at the "reorientation" of German political thinking, principal emphasis has been placed on political leaders, civil authorities, journalists, educational and religious leaders, and similar groups. Very few scientists have been included.

In August 1952 the Department of State took an important step in the encouragement of German science. This was the assignment of two eminent American scientists to HICOG in Bonn as science advisers to the High Commissioner. Their duties include the facilitation of greater cooperation between American and German scientists in unclassified fields. They assume the same position in HICOG that science attaches have assumed in American embassies at Stockholm, Paris and London.

FUTURE PLANS

Department of State assistance to German science will include the continuation of a science staff in HICOG (and presumably in the

Embassy

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- 6 -

Embassy organization when it comes into being), and the exchange of German scientists to the degree possible under the Fulbright agreement which is now being initiated. In addition the Department will encourage appropriate private exchange arrangements.

Principal direct financial aid will presumably continue to be supplied by the Mutual Security Agency.

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